

first paramedics. On June 24, 1986, he was assigned to acting sergeant position and maintained that post through June 21, 1988. Ronald McClain received several other promotions throughout his career, including promotion to Firefighter on April 18, 1992, Lieutenant on July 5, 1994, Fire Captain on July 31, 1998, Battalion Chief on July 1, 2002 and Chief of Operations on October 21, 2003. In addition to these promotions, he also received the Outstanding Firefighter of the Year Award in 1991 and the Fire Chief's Award in March of 2002. Ronald McClain retired from the Sterling Heights Fire Department on February 29th of this year after nearly 29 years of dedicated service. He has continued his public service by becoming the chief of the South Lyon Fire Department.

George Binno became a Sterling Heights firefighter on January 9, 1978. In 1982 he became certified as an Emergency Medical Technician. In July of 1989, he was named Sterling Heights Fire Department's Employee of the Month. Throughout his career, George Binno was promoted three times: Fire Lieutenant on June 21, 1994, Fire Captain on August 16, 1997, and Battalion Chief on January 18, 2001. He received the Fire Chief's Award for his involvement in the implementation of the ICS and Radio Committee, and received the 5-Year Safe Driver Award in 2003. George Binno retired on February 29th of this year after 30 years of dedicated service.

Fred Golda became a Sterling Heights firefighter on September 5, 1989. Over the years he was an ardent participant in the fire department's Open House. He also assisted with facilitating and coordinating the department's Civilian Fire Academy. Fred Golda received the Fire Chief's Award four times for letters extolling above and beyond responses to several incidents. Throughout his career, Fred Golda was promoted several times: Fire Sergeant on July 27, 2002, Lieutenant on November 10, 2003, and Fire Inspector on January 21, 2005. He was honored with the 5-Year Safe Driver Award and the Meritorious Unit Citation for quick actions in the extrication of a DPW worker from a trench in November of 2003. Fred Golda retired on September 4th of this year after 19 years of dedicated service.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing these three heroes who have dedicated their lives to serving the public with valor, commitment, and honor.

HONORING REVEREND JAMES  
EDWARD WALKER, JR.

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2008*

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Reverend James Edward Walker, Jr., for 35 years as the pastor of Faith Gospel Temple Church of God in Christ. Reverend Walker will be honored at a dinner on September 27th in my hometown of Flint, MI.

Reverend Walker was called to the ministry in July 1972. He was installed as the pastor of Faith Gospel Temple Church of God in Christ the following January. For the past 33 years he served under Bishop P.A. Brooks in the Northwest Michigan Diocese, and Reverend

Walker was elevated to Superintendent in the Church of God in Christ in 1984. In this capacity, he oversees 3 churches in Flint and Saginaw.

Two passages of Scripture embody Reverend Walker's ministry, Hebrews 13:2 "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unaware" and Luke 6:35 ". . . do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again." In his work with Flint Community Schools, the homeless, persons in need, the hungry and persons facing life crises, Reverend Walker strives to help everyone with both temporal and spiritual assistance.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Reverend James Walker, Jr., for 35 years of spreading the joy of Our Lord Jesus Christ to the distressed and needy. May he continue his ministry for many, many years to come.

INTRODUCTION TO LEGISLATION  
TO CREATE AN INDEPENDENT  
CENSUS AGENCY

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2008*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing a bill with my colleagues Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. CLAY, Mr. HONDA, and Mr. WAXMAN to establish an independent Census agency. It is indispensable to the basic principles of democratic representation that the decennial census is seen by the American public to be completely independent and nonpartisan. Elevating the Census Bureau to the status of an independent agency is a powerful statement to the American people and their leaders that the decennial census and the other critical surveys conducted by the Census Bureau are protected, and that our Government will summon the best demographers, statisticians, scientists and managers we can find to lead this vital agency.

HONORING FREDRICKA D. WANZA  
ON HER, 90TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2008*

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor and congratulate a dear constituent of mine, Ms. Fredericka D. Wanza on her 90th birthday. As members of my community gather to celebrate Ms. Wanza, I take this opportunity to convey to her warm wishes on this milestone occasion.

Fredericka D. Wanza was born on September 28, 1918 to Fredrick Dean and Gladys Ward-Dean in Overtown-Miami, Florida.

Her parents died when Fredericka was a very young girl and she and her five sisters were cared for by her Grandmother and then her Aunt and Uncle in Miami and Ocala, Florida.

Fredericka D. Wanza married James Willie Wanza, former Northwestern Sr. High School Coach, approximately 35 years ago and out of this union, a daughter Theta Wanza Shipp and James Willie Wanza II were born. Today,

Fredericka Wanza has 5 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

Fredericka Wanza was educated in Miami-Dade County Public Schools and matriculated from Florida A&M College in Tallahassee, Florida.

Fredericka Wanza was the first African American visiting teacher for Miami-Dade County Public Schools, she retired in 1975. From 1976-1982 she managed her own real estate company; servicing Miami-Dade, Broward and Leon counties. In 1982 she opened her own day care center in Miami Gardens, Florida.

Fredericka D. Wanza is the Founder and Director of Wanza and Braxton Day Care Center, where she dotes on the young children and instills good behavior all while preparing them for primary school.

Fredericka D. Wanza is a life-long member of St. Agnes Episcopal Church and a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.

The 17th Congressional District of Florida is blessed to have a leader and role model like Fredericka D. Wanza.

CELEBRATING 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF AGUDATH ACHIM, OF  
ALTOONA PENNSYLVANIA

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2008*

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct privilege to rise today to congratulate and celebrate the congregation of Agudath Achim of Altoona, Pennsylvania, on their 125th anniversary. Agudath Achim which translates to "a union of brothers and sisters" began its long and rich history in 1883 when its members began meeting in the homes of their neighbors and fellow worshipers.

It was through this humble beginning that the men and women of Agudath Achim were able to pool their resources, their faith and their effort into the construction of their first wooden synagogue in 1895. This wooden Shule sat on the site of the congregation's second synagogue which dates back to 1925 and has served as the congregation's home ever since.

The contribution made by the Jewish people to Pennsylvania and our national heritage cannot be understated. In 1746 the first man to explore what is now Blair County and the home to Agudath Achim was a Jew named Colonel Conrad Weiser. He was followed in 1754 by Stephen Franks, founder of Frankstown, Pennsylvania. In 1778 General Daniel Roberdeau, a Jew from York, Pennsylvania and a member of the Continental Congress became aware of the presence of lead mines in central Pennsylvania. At his own expense, General Roberdeau traveled to our region and built a fort in what would one day become Altoona to begin mining and processing much-needed lead ammunition to General Washington's troops at Valley Forge.

These early pioneers were part of a larger group of hardworking and devout Jews that helped lay the foundation for the Pennsylvania we know and love today. The men and women of Agudath Achim carry with them this heritage and they have given tirelessly and